

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7468

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RQ, MX

SUBJ: TALK WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR MOYA PALENCIA ON PRI AND
PUERTO RICO

REF: MEXICO 7032, 6862, 6911

1. I CALLED ON MOYA PALENCIA THIS MORNING AND AMONG OTHER THINGS DISCUSSED OUR CONCERN RE FORTHCOMING MEETING IN SUPPORT OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE TO BE HELD IN HAVANA SEPTEMBER 5-9. MOYA WAS FAMILIAR WITH SUBJECT SAYING THAT HE HAD HAD TELEPHONE CALLS FROM AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI AND JUST YESTERDAY HAD RECEIVED LETTER ON THIS SUBJECT. HE READ ME EXCERPTS FROM LETTER IN WHICH DE OLLOQUI RECALLED HIS OWN VISIT TO PUERTO RICO SOME TWO YEARS AGO, AND IN WHICH HE MADE A VERY FAVORABLE PRESENTATION OF THE REALITIES OF PUERTO RICAN POLITICAN LIFE INCLUDING FACT THAT LESS THAN ONE PERCENT HAD VOTED FOR INDEPENDENCE, SPANISH WAS KEPT AS LIVING AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE; DYNAMISM OF YOUNG GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ COLON AND HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING OF PUERTO RICAN POPULATION, AND HAD URGED THAT GOM AND/OR PRI NOT INVOLVE ITSELF IN AGGRAVATING THE RELATIVELY DORMANT INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT. MOYA OBSERVED THAT WHILE PUERTO RICANS SEEMED TO HAVE CHOSEN COMMONWEALTH STATUS, HE PRESUMED THAT THIS STATUS WAS SUBJECT TO CONTINUED LIBERALIZATION. I TOLD
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HIM OF ON GOING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S.

PRESIDENT AND PUERTO RICAN GOVERNOR INTENDED TO OBTAIN JUST SUCH LIBERALIZATION AND AMPLIFICATION OF POWERS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO. I POINTED OUT HOWEVER THAT THIS WOULD REQUIRE SENATE APPROVAL AND THUS THIS WAS STILL ANOTHER REASON WHY IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF MEXICAN OFFICIAL PERSONAGES STIR MATTERS UP AT THIS POINT.

2. MOYA SAID THAT RABASA INTENDS EXPLAIN SITUATION TO PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA HOPEFULLY TO INSURE THAT HE ALSO EXERTS PROPER CAUTION. IN REGARD TO EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PRI OR OFFICIAL MEXICAN PARTICIPATION AT HAVANA CONFERENCE MOYA POINTED OUT THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF MEXICAN LEFT WING PARTIES WOULD CERTAINLY BE ATTENDING THE HAVANA CONFERENCE AND THAT IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL TO TRY TO STOP THEM. HE ALSO SAID THAT WHILE IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT SOME PRI MEMEBERS MIGHT ATTEND, "AFTER ALL THE MAJORITY OF THE MEXICAN PEOPLE BELONG TO PRI", HE GAVE ASSURANCES THAT NO ONE WOULD BE REPRESENTING PRI AS SUCH. WHEN I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT NO HIGH PRI OFFICIALS WOULD ATTEND EVEN IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY MOYA WAS LESS EMPHATIC IN HIS ASSURANCES IN THIS REGARD BUT MADE APPROPRIATELY SYMPATHETIC NOISES.

3. COMMENT: I WAS STRUCK BY FACT THAT MOYA WAS FULLY UP TO DATE ON THIS MATTER AND WAS AWARE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S DEMARCHES WITH DE OLLOQUI AS WELL AS OUR EMBASSY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. MY OWN VISIT WAS AN ADDITIONAL INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE WITH WHICH WE REGARD THE MATTER.
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